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# DISSE

# R T A T I O N

# ON THE

# Venereal Disease.

W H E R E I N

A Method of curing all the Stages of that Distemper will be communicated, and confirmed by several Instances of Success from the least to the greatest Degree of Infection: without the help of any Mercurial Drenches, Vomits, or Fumigations; without Injections or Astringents of any Sort; without Escharoticks, Causticks, hot Irons, &c. so solemnly recommended by many Authors; and above all, that OPPROBRIUM CHIRURGORUM, a SALIVATION will in all Cases be avoided.

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By JOHN DOUGLAS, Surgeon, F. R. S.

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*What say you to this Mr. S——— I P———  
Mr. J———s D———y, and all you H———l S———s*

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L O N D O N:

Printed for and sold by the Author, in Lad-Lane  
near Guild-Hall

M D C C X X X V I I



T O T H E

Eminently learned and unbias'd Judge

Dr. THOMAS PELLET,

PRESIDENT of the College of Physicians,

FELLOW of the Royal Society, &c.

This small DISSERTATION

Is, with the utmost Submission,

Dedicated by

His very obedient Servant,

Lad-Lane,

April 30, 1737.

JOHN DOUGLAS.

## UNIT C



A

# DISSERTATION ON THE Venereal Disease.



HE venereal disease is a contagious distemper, which contaminates our bodies, in a fulsome, painful, and dangerous manner, if not checked in time by proper remedies. Definition

Whether the Epocha of this disease is as old as origin, the prostitution of women, as some assert, or appeared first at the siege of Naples, in 1494, as others affirm, whether the active poison, which so contaminates our bodies, is an Acid or an Alkali, a preternatural ferment, worms, or what, on which writers have spent so much time, I shall leave others to determine, being of opinion that the decision of these questions, tho' they could be clearly decided, is of no more use in discovering this distemper, or in curing it, than the histories of the councils of Trent or Nice.

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All the different appearances of this disease are produced by the same first cause, viz. the contagious venereal poison, (elegantly, tho' not clearly defined by Dr. Astruc in these words ; “ *Dimanat ergo ab ægris in sanos seminium sive miasma quoddam morbificum, quod paucâ quidem, imo paucissimâ quantitate & inconspicuis viis sanò corpore insinuatum, dein copiâ, viribus, efficaciâ sensim invalescens totam humorum massam tardius citiusve inficere valeat atque pessundare* ”) and differ only, as wounds do, secundum majus & minus, the number and consequence of the parts affected, standing of the disease, constitution of the patient otherwise, &c. Yet still a wound is a wound, be it large or small, affect this or that part, &c. and è contra : which all authors own by confessing, that the smallest infection, may (by ignorance of what they really ail, neglect, irregularity, or which is much worse, improper treatment, &c.) be turned into the highest degree. “ As to the event, I say, the same is generally a Pox, where the sick falls into the hands of Quacks, or other ignorant Pretenders \*.”

*Ways of Infection.*

It is most commonly contracted by the copulation of a sound with an infected person. E. G. A virtuous wife may catch it from a diseased husband, or a sound man from a loose wife. A child may also receive it from the parent (tho' one of the worst sorts of hereditary right) and give it the nurse, or receive it from her. A young child may also take it from an infected person it lies with, &c. Whence its evident, how careful people ought to be, who they suffer to suckle or lie with their children, &c.

\* *Tinney's Syphilis.*

The symptoms of this disease have been so minutely described by Others, that I shall only take notice of those, which may soonest distinguish it, from other distempers, especially from that with which it is so commonly confounded, or mistaken for, in women, viz. what the good women call the Whites.

1. The first material symptom of this distemper, is a discharge of a whitish, yellow or greenish matter from the Urethra of men, and the Vagina of women, which appears first on their linnen.

2. A smarting, sharp, and pricking pain in making water.

This state of the disease is not easily distinguished from the Whites, because the matter discharged in both is of the same colour and consistence, and the heat of urine often the same. Yet I think they may be clearly distinguished, by the quantity of the discharge, which is usually much larger in the Whites, than when venereal; by its continuance for several weeks or months, without any other symptom appearing, which is peculiar to the venereal disease; by its not infecting the husband; and by the account the patient gives of herself, or her husband.

3. A troublesome, and often an exceeding painful and involuntary erection, which plagues them most when warm in bed. 4. A painful swelling on the Perinæum and bulb of the Urethra. 5. Red excrescencies like warts, on the glans, foreskin, &c. and upon the parts of women. 6. A Phimosis, i. e. when the fore-skin cannot be pulled back without great pain;

*Diagnostick  
Signs.*

*Distinction  
between the  
Whites and  
the Venereal  
Disease.*

*Chordee.*

*Swelling of  
the Perinæum.*

*Venereal  
Warts.*

*Phimosis  
and Para-  
phimosis.*

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or a Paraphimosis, i. e. when the foreskin cannot be brought forwards. 7. Chancres, i. e. little ulcers on the glans, foreskin, &c. and on the parts of women. 8. A painful swelling in one or both testicles, oftner occasioned by taking improper medicines, or cold, than by the disease. This symptom ought to be particularly attended to, because, tho' there's no danger in't, when properly treated at first, yet by improper management, the healthiest man may be made impotent for ever afterwards; of which I knew once a most melancholly instance. A gentleman of great worth, and large fortune, got a common running with heat of urine, &c. for which he applied to his apothecary, who told him it was but a trifle, and he would make him well in two or three weeks time. Accordingly he fell to drenching of him, &c. afterwards he gave him a large pot of electuary, composed, I doubt not, of some astringent stuff, that, as he had promised, soon stopped his running, which was in a little time succeeded by a painful swelling in both testicles. This alarmed both not a little; however, instead of calling in proper assistance, as he ought to have done, he told him, not to be uneasy, for he would soon set him to rights again, which the poor innocent gentleman believing, suffered him to go on. He then went to work with poultices, plaisters, &c. by which he reduc'd the tumours pretty much, but left them as big again as they naturally were, perfectly indolent, and very hard: and assured him they would come to themselves in time without any farther applications. With which he, since they gave him

no pain, was pretty well satisfied, and troubled his head no more about it for above a year ; when he made same overtures of matrimony to a young lady's friends, in which, (tho' they were very acceptable,) he told me he would make no farther advances, until he asked my opinion about his ail. So he related the case as above ; and added, that ever since that affair, tho' he had frequent erections, yet, he emitted nothing, and therefore desir'd to know if that could be set to rights again ; for if it could not, he would never think any more of matrimony : then I examined his testicles, and found them as above, and told him, I believed they could not be made useful again, but would not have him depend on my opinion only, but take further advice. To which, after bewailing his misfortune in trusting to a man, he too late found knew nothing of the matter, he consented : we accordingly went to the late Mr. Edward Green, who said, if a salivation would not dissolve that hardness, he knew nothing else could. Accordingly he was laid down, but we could never make him spit above half a pint a day, so it had no effect ; about a year after Mr. Green and I laid him down again for the same complaint, but to no purpose.

- 9. A Bubo, i. e. a swelling in one or both *Bubo.*  
groins, &c. 10. Scabby and scaly eruptions, *Eruptions.*  
on the head, face; thighs, &c. 11. Nocturnal *Night  
Pains.*  
Pains, in the head, limbs, &c. 12. Ill natured  
and stinking ulcers, in the mouth, throat, or nose. *Ulcers, &c.*
- 13. Rotten Bones. 14. A thickness and hardness  
in the skin or flesh any where. 15. Ill-natured  
ulcers on several parts of the Body, &c. *Nodes and  
Caries.* *Gummata.* *Ill natur'd  
Ulcers.*

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Thus I have enumerated the principal Symptoms of this disease, which may easily be observed by those who are little acquainted with it, so as to distinguish it from other distempers: and have made only one disease of it, (the different appearances of which vary only as above,) which by all authors, except Dr. Default, is divided into two classes, viz. the first or second degree of Infection. Yet none of them have ever undertaken to tell us the critical time, where or when the first degree ends, and the second begins; but sometimes call Chancres, Bubo's, Excrescences, &c. a sign of the first, sometimes of the second degree. So it lies in the Breast of every A la Mode Dr. (how little soever dignified or distinguished) to christen these Symptoms, &c. of the first or second degree, as they shall think fit.

But when this distemper is not discovered in time, when neglected afterwards, or, which is still much worse, improperly treated: Ye Gods, what havock does this Evil make among your works! E. G. Some men, and many innocent women, have been brought almost to death's door, before ever they knew what they ail'd: which I know no other way of preventing for the future, but by advising every person, whenever they find themselves attacked with any uncommon ail, to take proper advice soon, because its not in this distemper only that they suffer by delay; neither is it this ail only which some men and many women are loath to discover. E. G. i Ruptures in the Navel, or Groins: which in the beginning, may be made either quite easy, or radically cured;

whereas by unseasonable delays, they are either rendered very dangerous or incurable: As it happened a few years ago to a worthy Lady, who could not be persuaded, even by her fond husband, to suffer a Surgeon to look upon a large rupture in her navel, which she had been troubled with for some time, until the skin broke, and the gut slipp'd out, and hung down the length of half a foot; and when I saw it, it look'd black, but was not cold, and she was otherwise healthy and well. I told them it was a very dangerous case, and therefore desired the assistance of another surgeon; upon which they named Robert Gay, Esq; member of parliament for Bath, who came directly, and said it was a lost case; but to keep her easy, I might bath the Intestine twice or thrice a day. I said, I thought so also; yet if he would agree to it, I would give her one chance for her life, (which I had mentioned to her before he came, and she had readily consented) viz. by opening the Stricture, and returning the Prolapsa into the belly, the most natural bath. But Mr. Gay said, considering the blackness of the Intestine which was broke out, the largeness of the tumour (viz. about the bigness of a penny loaf) the adhesions we might find of the gut or caul to the edges of the ring, the clamour such an operation would make, if it did not answer, and the little probability there was that it would succeed, &c. in his opinion it was better to let it alone, which was certainly the most prudent way: yet it always was and now is my opinion, that a doubtful remedy, especially when the patient is willing to submit to it, is more

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eligible than to expose a person to certain death.  
*Prestat anceps quam nullum adhibere remedium.*  
What had we to be afraid of except the blackness  
of the Gut ? Who knows what the natural warmth  
of the belly might have done ? 2. In bruises  
&c. of the testicles. A young gentleman bruised  
one of his testicles on the pummel of his  
saddle by the stumbling of his horse , which  
gave him great pain for some little time, and  
then grew very easy. A few days afterwards, he  
perceived it was bigger than ordinary, but perfect-  
ly indolent, which made him quiet (thinking there  
could be no harm, where there was no pain, tho'  
a man of exceeding good sense in other matters)  
until it became troublesome by its weight. Then  
he consulted me (viz. about six months after the  
accident) and I told him, if he had come as soon as  
he perceived it to swell, I might have been of ser-  
vice to him ; but now (it was swelled as big as a  
pint bottle, and pretty hard, tho' light in proportion  
to its bigness) I thought that nothing could be of any  
use to him except extirpation. But as it was an  
affair of consequence, I desired he would not de-  
pend solely on my opinion, but try if he could  
find any milder sentence from others ; accordingly  
I went with him to the late Mr. Edward Green, Mr.  
Samuel Palmer, &c. and they were all of the same  
opinion : I took it out about three days after, and,  
tho' it weigh'd above a pound, the wound was  
perfectly cured in four weeks. 3. In luxations of  
the rump, &c. A girl about seventeen fell back-  
wards in the street, upon a sharp stone, which  
luxated her rump. She was carried home in

great pain to her mothers, who immediately sent for a midwife to help her; but all she could do signified nothing, therefore she desired they would send for a surgeon, which the mother readily agreed to, but her daughter would by no means consent to it, till about twenty four hours afterward, when she found her pain encreased by fruitless attempts to go to stool. Her pulse being very high, I blooded her, and then with my finger replaced the rump, upon which all her uneasiness soon vanished.

4. In fistula's of the anus, and in various other cases peculiar to women, &c. they suffer much by imprudent delay.

The prognostick will always vary according to <sup>Prognostick signs.</sup> the number and nature of the symptoms, standing of the disease, constitution of the patient otherwise, their regular or irregular way of living, &c.

All the different degrees of this disease being <sup>cure.</sup> produced by the same cause, the cure must also be the same, only varied, like the disease, secundum majus & minus. E. G. Supposing a man has contracted a virulent running, accompanied with great heat and sharpness of urine, a chordee, pain in the perinæum, verrucæ, a phimosis, or paraphimosis, chancres, swelling of the testicles, a hard bubo, &c. Let the perinæum, canal of the urethra, and all the parts affected, be well rubbed every night, or every other night, before a warm fire, with mercurial unction, and purge him every day, every other day, or every third day, with some soft purgative; and so go on, taking particular care of cold, and you will soon see the bitter pains caused by the urine, the chordee, inflamed

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testicles, &c. vanish, the swelling and hardness of the bubo and testicles gradually dissolve, the phimosis, or paraphimosis relaxed, the chancres healed, the running reduced to a small quantity of a mild nature, and all the symptoms cured much sooner and safer than by any other method. But if, besides some or all of the fore-mentioned symptoms, they have also scabby eruptions on the head, limbs, &c. large excrencences about the anus, &c. ulcers in the mouth, throat, nose, &c. night-pains, nodes, gummata, &c. which only denote a higher degree of infection ; then you must confine them to their room, bleed, bath, and purge, *pro re nata*, before you begin the frictions, encrease the quantity of the unction, and apply it once or twice a day, or every other day, (according as the case requires) on the limbs, groins, nodes, gummata, and other places affected, and the parts of women ; the dose of the purgative must also be encreased, and taken frequently, (except when the mercury takes downwards of it self, and purges them plentifully, which it often does) as you see occasion. The great secret consists in proportioning the quantity of the unction, and the number of frictions to the disease, and the purges or clysters to the effect thereof, strength of the patient, &c. whereby the mouth will be perfectly secured, and the venereal contagion, as well as the mercury, carried off by stools, in an easy, safe, pleasant, and more effectual manner, than by a salivation. They may feed moderately on good broths, chicken, veal, &c. the better to support them under these large, tho' easy evacuations.

They may see company without any suspicion, read, write, play at cards, &c. as they shall chuse. When you find the contagion is quite carried off, (which will always be in less time than what's spent in salivating) then finish with a decoction of the woods, good light food, milk, &c. *N. B.* In women always begin soon after the menses are past, and leave off your frictions, and purge twice or thrice after, a few days before the expected time of their return.

Thus you see the cure, in what they call all the stages of this disease, is owing to the same medicine with which they raise a salivation; only using it in a more pleasant, safe, and effectual manner, as before mentioned: The disease and the medicine being both carried off in this process by the common duct, which nature has appointed to discharge herself both of diseases and the natural impurities of our bodies; whereas when a salivation is excited, nature is forced to disburthen herself at ports she never intended; which is evident from the lively pain it occasions, both in the mouth and parts adjacent; nay, sometimes affects the brain it self, so as the poor patients are thrown into the utmost despair of their lives. You may also observe, that by this method not only the whole train of mercurial purges, mercurial vomits, and mercurial fumigations, so destructive to the constitution; the painful escharotick medicines laid on chancres, verrucæ, or cutting them at first, which always gives a lively pain; laying open the prepucie with knives or scissars, hot irons they thrust into the mouth or nose; applying

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causticks on hard bubo's, injections of all sorts; the loads of poultises, plaisters, &c. laid on swelled testicles, &c. are totally laid aside; but also that a salivation, and all its dismal train of accidents, is in all cases prevented. *N. B.* There's never any gleet caused by this process. If a bubo has matter in it, it must be opened and treated like other imposthumous. If the bones were rotten at first, the contagion being destroyed, they are to be cured as in others who never were infected, &c. &c.

Notwithstanding the cure by this method seems, and really is, so very easy, safe, and certain; yet, I must say, in my opinion, its too edged a tool for youngsters, or other unexperienced persons, to play with, as its elegantly expressed by Dr. Astruc. *Inde tamen putari nolim hac methodo in curanda lue venerea navigationis cursum teneri quasi per mare pacificum, quod procellas nullas experiatur, quod nulla viderit naufragia; si quidem haec ipsa methodus sua quoque patitur infortunia, quorum alia quidem parit ægrotantium imprudentiam, qui medicis monentibus morem non gerunt; alia vero accidunt medicorum incuria, qui sese ægrosque frustrari solent, dum per errorem, medicinam impariem morbo adhibent.*

Therefore, I hope every impartial judge (what others do will give me no trouble) will carefully distinguish between the accidents or bad success which may happen by the carelessness or injudiciousness of the director-general, the imprudence or irregularity of the patient, and what can be really and fairly attributed to the process, when proper-

ly managed ; and then its safety and successfulness will clearly appear.

Perhaps Dr. Turner and his patrons may endeavour to perswade people, that this is the same method proposed some time ago by Dr. Chicoyneau ; yet it is as different from it as from a salivation, for he rubs in only a little unction, once in three, four, or five days, without purging at all, by which a salivation is often raised ; but in this way you may use five times as much mercury as they do, and yet have no salivation, &c. as will appear below.

Having thus briefly explained the method of curing all the different degrees of this distemper, (first practised by that excellent physician, Dr. Desault of Bourdeaux in France, and published, 1733.) which I constantly use, and do recommend to others, *non sibi sed aliis*: I shall next confirm it by several examples, not only of the doctor's, but also of my own.

In Dr. Desault's dissertation, *sur les maladies veneriennes*, he relates the following cases. 1. A young gentleman had a virulent running, which would not yield to the common remedies, warts, chancres, &c. After being prepared as above, we anointed him, and turned the mercury downwards by purges. The frictions and purges were continued for a considerable time, and succeeded to our wish ; the running was stopped, the chancres gone, and the warts, which were very much diminished, were cut by the roots, and touched with the infernal stone, and he has continued well ever since. This success encouraged me

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so much; that I never after treated the highest degrees of this distemper after any other manner, and constantly with success. 2. A young man had a paraphimosis, which made his glans swell to double the natural bigness, a virulent and copious running mixed with blood, and the glands of both groins much swelled. I blooded him largely to prevent the suppuration or mortification of the glans, and to restrain the blood which issued with the running. He was prepared as above, the unction rubbed in, and purged off as before, the frictions were repeated times without number, and the evacuations by stool were answerable; whenever he complained of being faintish from the purging I used clysters in their stead, and after being recruited I purged him again. We then saw the paraphimosis disappear without being obliged to cut the prepuce, the hardened glands in the groins entirely dispersed without suppuration, and the running quite stopp'd. 3. A young man about twenty-two had a virulent running, which had long baffled all the means used to put a stop to it; a bubo on each groin, of which one had suppurated, and the other was as hard as a stone, the heads of the *triceps femoris* were very hard, nay almost callous, (i. e. what they call gum-mata) scurffs on his forehead, and his head covered with scabs like a leper. (*What say you to this, Mr. Daniel Turner, Mr. Patron Palmer, &c. was this man poxed or not? would a few doses of calomel, or a cinnabar fumigation have cured him?*) He was put into the same course as before, but we had no occasion to purge the mercury downwards, be-

cause it took that turn of it self ; and purged him so plentifully after every friction, that we did not so much as use one clyster ; friction upon friction was the purgative : We soon saw the scurfs and scabs fall off his head, the bubo's dispersed, the gummata dissolved, and the running quite cured. He never lost either his stomach or sleep, and was gay and merry all the while. But who ever far'd so in a full salivation?

4. A young woman, married at twelve years of age, soon after complained of a virulent running, great sharpness of urine, nocturnal pains, large and thick excrescences about the anus, &c. As she was young and buxom, I did not bath her, but only purged and blooded her, then put her into the same course : Every thing went on in the best manner untill the twentieth day, when her menses appeared, notwithstanding I took care to begin just after they were past : I was now obliged to suspend the use both of frictions and purges during the time they flowed, which was full eight days : In that interval the mercury made some ulcers in her mouth, which produced a small salivation, that we could not stop by purging during the flux of the menses. Had I known that they appeared always on the twentieth day, I should have left off the frictions on the fifteenth, and purged the sixteenth and seventeenth, to prevent the salivation. It continued but a few days ; and though her mouth was very sore, yet it did not hinder her either to talk or eat, though with a little pain. The excrescences, and all other symptoms disappeared, except the running,

which was a of very good colour, much diminished, and by a few more purges entirely ceased. 5. A girl of the town was affected in a most frightful manner with ulcers almost over her whole body, especially her legs, thighs, the parts, and about the fundament ; her groins were stuffed with hard and painful glands, some of which threatened to break ; large excrescences about the fundament and parts, a tumour on her breast as big as an egg, others on her neck, of which some had suppurated, others not ; pustules and scabs all over the head, and a suppression of the menses almost a year. *What say you to this girl? was she infected or not?* We began with frictions, &c. without any preparation ; and it is almost inconceivable with how much celerity the ulcers were cicatrized, the excrescences destroyed, the tumours on her breast and neck dispersed, and a radically cure obtained. A small salivation appeared on the twentieth day, which I attributed in some measure to a purge she had thrown up ; but much more to the anointing of so many ulcers, through which the mercury penetrates much quicker than through the skin ; therefore in these cases the purges ought to be the brisker, and the unction less. In a month after her cure the menses returned. 6. An old soldier (having retired from the service, where he had been several times infected, and very superficially cured) had two bubo's, which they could never bring to a good digestion ; also an ill-natured ulcer the breadth of your hand on his left buttock, which discharged a great quantity of a thin

great pain to her mothers, who immediately sent for a midwife to help her ; but all she could do signified nothing, therefore she desired they would send for a surgeon, which the mother readily agreed to, but her daughter would by no means consent to it, till about twenty four hours afterward, when she found her pain encreased by fruitless attempts to go to stool. Her pulse being very high, I blooded her, and then with my finger replaced the rump, upon which all her uneasiness soon vanished.

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causticks on hard bubo's, injections of all sorts; the loads of poultises, plaisters, &c. laid on swelled testicles, &c. are totally laid aside; but also that a salivation, and all its dismal train of accidents, is in all cases prevented. *N. B.* There's never any gleet caused by this proceſs. If a bubo has matter in it, it must be opened and treated like other imposthumes. If the bones were rotten at first, the contagion being destroyed, they are to be cured as in others who never were infected, &c. &c.

Notwithstanding the cure by this method seems, and really is, so very easy, safe, and certain; yet, I must fay, in my opinion, its too edged a tool for youngsters, or other unexperienced persons, to play with, as its elegantly expressed by Dr. Astruc. *Inde tamen putari nolim hac methodo in curanda lue venerea navigationis cursum teneri quasi per mare pacificum, quod procellas nullas experiatur, quod nulla viderit naufragia; si quidem haec ipsa methodus sua quoque patitur infortunia, quorum alia quidem parit ægrotantium imprudentiam, qui medicis monentibus morem non gerunt; alia vero accidunt medicorum incuria, qui sese ægrosque frustrari solent, dum per errorem, medicinam imparem morbo adhibent.*

Therefore, I hope every impartial judge (what others do will give me no trouble), will carefully distinguish between the accidents or bad success which may happen by the carelessness or injudiciousness of the director-general, the imprudence or irregularity of the patient, and what can be really and fairly attributed to the proceſs, when proper-

ly managed ; and then its safety and successfulness will clearly appear.

Perhaps Dr. Turner and his patrons may endeavour to perswade people, that this is the same method proposed some time ago by Dr. Chicoyneau ; yet it is as different from it as from a salivation, for he rubs in only a little unction, once in three, four, or five days, without purging at all, by which a salivation is often raised ; but in this way you may use five times as much mercury as they do, and yet have no salivation, &c. as will appear below.

Having thus briefly explained the method of curing all the different degrees of this distemper, (first practised by that excellent physician, Dr. Default of Bourdeaux in France, and published, 1733.) which I constantly use, and do recommend to others, *non sibi sed aliis*: I shall next confirm it by several examples, not only of the doctor's, but also of my own.

In Dr. Default's dissertation, *sur les maladies vénériennes*, he relates the following cases. 1. A young gentleman had a virulent running, which would not yield to the common remedies, warts, chancres, &c. After being prepared as above, we anointed him, and turned the mercury downwards by purges. The frictions and purges were continued for a considerable time, and succeeded to our wish ; the running was stopped, the chancres gone, and the warts, which were very much diminished, were cut by the roots, and touched with the infernal stone, and he has continued well ever since. This success encouraged me

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so much; that I never after treated the highest degrees of this distemper after any other manner, and constantly with success. 2. A young man had a paraphimosis, which made his glans swell to double the natural bigness, a virulent and copious running mixed with blood, and the glands of both groins much swelled. I blooded him largely to prevent the suppuration or mortification of the glans, and to restrain the blood which issued with the running. He was prepared as above, the unction rubbed in, and purged off as before, the frictions were repeated times without number, and the evacuations by stool were answerable; whenever he complained of being faintish from the purging I used clysters in their stead, and after being recruited I purged him again. We then saw the paraphimosis disappear without being obliged to cut the prepuce, the hardened glands in the groins entirely dispersed without suppuration, and the running quite stopp'd. 3. A young man about twenty-two had a virulent running, which had long baffled all the means used to put a stop to it; a bubo on each groin, of which one had suppurated, and the other was as hard as a stone, the heads of the *triceps femoris* were very hard, nay almost callous, (i. e. what they call gum-mata) scurffs on his forehead, and his head covered with scabs like a leper. (*What say you to this, Mr. Daniel Turner, Mr. Patron Palmer, &c. was this man poxed or not? would a few doses of calomel, or a cinnabar fumigation have cured him?*) He was put into the same course as before, but we had no occasion to purge the mercury downwards, be-

cause it took that turn of it self ; and purged him so plentifully after every friction, that we did not so much as use one clyster ; friction upon friction was the purgative : We soon saw the scurfs and scabs fall off his head, the bubo's dispersed, the gummata dissolved, and the running quite cured. He never lost either his stomach or sleep, and was gay and merry all the while. But who ever far'd so in a full salivation?

4. A young woman, married at twelve years of age, soon after complained of a virulent running, great sharpness of urine, nocturnal pains, large and thick excrescences about the anus, &c. As she was young and buxom, I did not bath her, but only purged and blooded her, then put her into the same course : Every thing went on in the best manner untill the twentieth day, when her menses appeared, notwithstanding I took care to begin just after they were past : I was now obliged to suspend the use both of frictions and purges during the time they flowed, which was full eight days : In that interval the mercury made some ulcers in her mouth, which produced a small salivation, that we could not stop by purging during the flux of the menses. Had I known that they appeared always on the twentieth day, I should have left off the frictions on the fifteenth, and purged the sixteenth and seventeenth, to prevent the salivation. It continued but a few days ; and though her mouth was very sore, yet it did not hinder her either to talk or eat, though with a little pain. The excrescences, and all other symptoms disappeared, except the running,

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which was a of very good colour, much diminished, and by a few more purges entirely ceased. 5. A girl of the town was affected in a most frightful manner with ulcers almost over her whole body, especially her legs, thighs, the parts, and about the fundament ; her groins were stuffed with hard and painful glands, some of which threatened to break ; large excrencences about the fundament and parts; a tumour on her breast as big as an egg, others on her neck, of which some had suppurated, others not ; pustules and scabs all over the head, and a suppression of the menses almost a year. *What say you to this girl? was she infected or not?* We began with frictions, &c. without any preparation ; and it is almost inconceivable with how much celerity the ulcers were cicatrized, the excrencences destroyed, the tumours on her breast and neck dispersed, and a radically cure obtained. A small salivation appeared on the twentieth day, which I attributed in some measure to a purge she had thrown up ; but much more to the anointing of so many ulcers, through which the mercury penetrates much quicker than through the skin ; therefore in these cases the purges ought to be the brisker, and the unction less. In a month after her cure the menses returned. 6. An old soldier (having retired from the service, where he had been several times infected, and very superficially cured) had two bubo's, which they could never bring to a good digestion ; also an ill-natured ulcer the breadth of your hand on his left buttock, which discharged a great quantity of a thin

ferous matter, which was so very corrosive that it eat through his shirt: We put him into the same course, and he was well cured. The unction applied to this ulcer had a very great effect, (as remarked in the foregoing case) which obliged us to be very attentive, least a salivation should arise, which often threatened us.

These Histories, &c. are told with such an air of sincerity and unreservedness, that the only difficulty, which occurred to me upon reading them, was, whether these frictions, &c. would have the same effect here as in France. This could only be determined by experience; of which I shall relate a few instances sufficient (in my opinion) to put this affair beyond dispute.

1. A young man came to me with a virulent running, great sharpness of urine, a most painful chordee, (which kept him awake a great part of the night) a chancre on the glans, &c. I put him into a course of frictions and purging as above; and in three or four days the heat of urine and chordee were quite taken away; soon afterward the chancre was healed, and in less than five weeks the running was also cured to his great surprize (who had been more than once before treated in a much more harsh manner) as well as mine. 2. A Gentleman complained of a very painful swelling in one of his testicles; I asked him how it came: he said he believed from cold, having had no bruise upon it, &c. Upon which I asked if he had any running: he said he had none now, but about a month ago, after a hard day's hunting, he had a little one for a few days, which went away of

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it self: then, said I, I know how it is, &c. I blooded him directly, and sent him to bed; nay he was not able to sit up for the violence of the pain. Next morning I put on a truss, and desired him to rub the tumour (which was now four times as big as the other) with some unction, but it was so very painful, notwithstanding the bleeding, that he could not bear to touch it, even in the lightest manner; upon which I spread the ointment on a soft rag, then aired it at the fire, and laid it all over the tumour. I purged him as before, and in three days the pain was taken away, the tumour much lessened, and the running appeared again with a heat of urine; yet in less than four weeks time the testicle was reduced to its natural size and softness without the help of any other medicine, the running having vanished some time before.

3. An old fornicator shewed me his glans and prepuce almost covered with verrucæ, and without any other symptom: He said he had been above six months under the care of a young surgeon, who had also consulted two others of the first rank; yet, notwithstanding all they could do, by purging, diet drinks, and sharp escharoticks, which kept him awake almost all night, he was not a bit better: and they would do nothing more for him except he would be salivated, which his busines would not permit. I cut off three or four of them every day (and he bore it with uncommon courage) until they were all gone; they were dressed with pledges, squeezed out of a solution of Roman vitriol; then he anointed himself every night with the unction, and was

purged every other day : about the seventeenth or eighteenth, by omitting his purge, catching cold, &c. his mouth grew very sore, and he spit a little ; upon which I ordered him to keep his house, leave off the frictions, and purge every day, which took it off in a few days, and we proceeded as before : he was perfectly cured in fewer weeks than he had been months taking slops to no purpose ; and grew jollier and heartier in a few months after, than he had been for many years.

4. A woman of about twenty four, who had come out of one of the hospitals in a very weak condition about three weeks before, where she had been salivated to little or no purpose came to me : I asked her what she complained of when she went in : she said she was the same now as then, ~~only~~ her night pains were not so bad. Upon examination I found she had a virulent running, verrucæ, and chancres on the parts, as also a hard bubo in her groin : I told her, if she could support herself, I would endeavour to cure her ; which, by the assistance of a friend, she said she could : I purged her three or four times, then cut the verrucæ, and rubbed them with the blew stone, (tho' it is much less pain to cut them, if any remain, after the process) then put her into the course of frictions and purging, and so went on with great ease and pleasure for twenty five days without the least soreness in her mouth ; whereby I found the bubo dissolved, the chancres and verrucæ cured, and the running entirely stopt : she soon recovered her strength and complexion ; and said, she would rather go through this course ten times than half a salivation.

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5. A young gentleman applied to me, who complained of a virulent running, a heat of urine, two large pustules at the orifice of the urethra, a chordee, a painful hardness about the bulb of the urethra, and all along the pærineum: I put him into a course of frictions and purging; in a few days all the troublesome symptoms disappeared, the running much lessened, and, without any other medicines, in four weeks time he was perfectly cured without ever losing his stomach, taking one grain of mercury, neglecting any business, or falling away in the least, &c. he also had gone through the course of mercurial drenches and vomits, to his no small uneasiness, more than once before; which made him a very proper judge of the difference of the processes. 6. Another gentleman, who had been lately under a friend's care for a slight venereal disorder, &c. after the running had been stopt for some time, was brought to me with a large bubo: I ordered him to use the unction, and to be purged as before; whereby in ten days or a fortnight it entirely disappeared: however, I continued the course a week longer for the more security.

I could add several more instances but think these sufficient to shew the surprizing success of this method here as well as in France; though I have heard as yet of no other person who has tried it.

Having thus proved by experiments the easiness, safety, and effectualness of this process, I shall next give a short account of the tediousness, painfulness, unsuccessfulness, bad consequences, nay danger of life, in going through a salivation, &c, the principal arguments of which shall

even be taken from the very confessions of two of the latest advocates for a salivation, &c. viz. Dr. Astruc, and Dr. Turner. What the learned Dr. Astruc has said in favour of salivation, &c. has been answered in so brief and lively a manner by Dr. Default, that nothing need be added to it. This piece is entitled, An answer to Dr. Astruc's remarks on my dissertation on the venereal disease, by P. Default, &c. and is printed in Latin at the end of his, *dissertations de medicina*, vol. iii. 1736. He divides his answer into four parts: the first and fourth only concern my purpose; of both which I think it sufficient to give an abstract.

**Q. 1.** Whether salivation ought to be continued in the cure of this disease?

**Dr. Default.** The reputation of salivating for the cure of this disease has of late decayed, and a more safe method taken place, not only at Bourdeaux, but also at several other places; yet a learned and eminent physician has undertaken to restore that antient practice so long established by law; but with how little success I shall demonstrate out of his own book, &c. The learned author, pag. 364. fairly relates the difficulties and misfortunes which happen by salivating; viz: "The mercury, having got into the blood, hurries about in a tumultuous manner to get out where it can; nay it happens sometimes after the third or fourth friction, that the salivary and maxillary glands, tonsils, &c. grow hot, swell, and are very painful all of a sudden, the tongue is tumified, and hangs out of the mouth, the face and

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whole body are puffed up ; whence great difficulty of swallowing and breathing, the voice is suppressed, inarticulate, or like the lowing of a cow, deep sleep, lithargy, fever, &c. tho' they don't always all occur together, yet it is most certain they very often do. pag. 365 Particular care must be taken least the swelled tongue, which hangs out of the mouth, should be wounded by the fore-teeth ; nay, which is much worse, least it should be cut quite off by them, as has often happened." (Pray how will they speak after a third part of their tongue is cut off ? Won't it be more like the braying of an ass, than the lowing of a cow ?)

Dr. Default. Here let us pause a little. Who would not be shocked at such a sight ? who is so bold or blind ? who, would not tremble at these dire and horrible accidents, and avoid that process which caused them ?

Æs triplex, &c.

HOR<sup>T</sup>.

Daring and unco' stout he was,  
With heart hool'd in three sloughs of brafs,  
Wha ventured first upon the sea  
With hempen branks, and horse of tree.

A. RAMSAY.

Must he not have a heart of brass, or rather of steel, who, after seeing these things, would expose his patient to such imminent danger under the pretence of curing him ?

*Leviusne est ægrotare, quam tali methodo sanari.*

FERNELIUS.

Dr. Astruc goes on, pag. 364. "When the patient is oppressed with the concourse of so many deadly symptoms your only hope is in blunting or restraining the force of the mercury, or in giving it another turn, viz. downwards. For which intention (if you have time) first give a clyster, and immediately afterwards a purge, if they can swallow it." Pag. 365. he proceeds, "But if the spitting comes on too suddenly and plentifully, as it often does, it's to be restrained by drinking large quantities, the daily use of clysters, repeated purges, &c.

Dr. Default. Any body might reason after this manner: when the spitting is more plentiful than it should be, (as it often happens) consequently these terrible symptoms appear, and the patient thereby brought into such imminent danger; then, notwithstanding all their care, they are put to their trumps, all is almost over, they don't know what to do, except to fly to clysters and purges, which, if death is not at hand, will raise the seige of these hostile symptoms, that had surrounded Pallas's castle. But, is it not much more eligible not to wound a man, than to be at the trouble of curing him afterwards? Is it not much more desirable to prevent these frightful symptoms, than to run the risque of curing them afterwards? for experience shews all attempts are often unsuccessful. How much better then is that method, whereby these numerous and calamitous symptoms are prevented, and at the same time the full use of the mercury preserved?

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Dr. Default. But why should we press him so hard? when he himself confesses, pag. 138, 368, &c. that this disease is often cured without salivation, notwithstanding all their care to raise it. " Many patients are afraid they should miss of a cure, because they either spit very little or none at all; yet it's evident from experience, that many have been radically cured without spitting; and that the defect of salivating has been supplied by plentiful and frequent stools, a great discharge of urine, profuse sweats, or even by insensible transpiration: Wherefore those patients, on whom a salivation could not be raised, are so far from having any reason to complain, that they ought to congratulate themselves on the good luck they have had of being perfectly cured without the pain, tediousness, and danger of salivating."

Dr. Default. But if the patients (in whom an accidental flux of the belly prevented all the dismal accidents, which may occur in salivating, and at the same time secured their cure) have reason to be joyful; how much more reason has the surgeon to exult, when this salutary flux is brought about, not by accident, but by his art?

Our illustrious author goes on, pag. 372. " Sometimes deep, eating, and sordid ulcers affect several parts of the mouth; whence the spitting is continued longer than it should, and can neither be stopped, nor even lessened; whereby the patient is gradually wasted, and at length turns consumptive. In this case you must give an emollient clyster every day, and a gentle purge every third day, that the humours, which flow so plentifully to

the mouth may be turned downwards." Dr. Default. Now if these humours, which flow so copiously to the mouth, can be repressed by no other means but clysters and purges, as Dr. Astruc owns, pray would it not be much safer to turn them downwards at first, i. e. before the spitting is raised, and these ulcers formed, and to cure the patient without running the risque of a consumption, not from the disease, but the artificial spitting?

Dr. Astruc, pag. 371, says, " Melancholy people especially, who are naturally fearful, are so fretted and teased with the pain and tediousness of this process, that they despair of ever getting over it, or being a bit better if they do, and, tho' they are really cured by it, cannot believe it; in both cases the surgeon is teased with daily and grievous complaints, and, tho' never so blameless, always blamed."

Dr. Default. But it's not melancholy people only that are subject to this consternation and despondency, but almost every one who is salivated: For my own part I never saw one, who at the height of the salivation did not despair of his recovery.

Dr. Astruc. " Therefore those sort of people, who are so very uneasy under the pains they suffer during the course of a salivation, must be comforted with good words."

Dr. Default. Good words! rare comfort indeed! if Seneca himself was alive, all his philosophy would be thrown away on a person under the torments of a salivation; he could raise his drooping spirits with no hope; for when the soul, sitting in

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the brain as on her throne, perceives her castle close besieged with tumours, ulcers, violent pains, &c. as if Hannibal was at the gate, she is frightened and alarmed, and can be comforted by no means except those dire symptoms could be mitigated.

Dr. Astruc, pag. 373. " Sometimes a dangerous Hæmorrhage happens after the separation of the sloughs in the mouth ; then, if the vessels which bleed are in sight, you must sear them with a hot iron. *But if they are not* — I remember to have seen a dangerous flux from the upper part of the patient's nose, near the throat, which was luckily restrain'd by a hot iron passed up the nostril thro' a canula. A dangerous and uncertain operation indeed! but necessity has no law ! "

Dr. Default. Good God! what a cruel method of cure is this ? which often occasions such a terrible operation ! can you imagine any person so fond of living, that would not rather die than buy life so dear ?

*Melius enim est ægrotare, quam, tali methodo sanari.*

FERNL.

Dr. Astruc. pag. 374. " Sometimes the tongue grows to the inner gums, the cheeks to the outer gums, or the uvula to the adjacent parts, when their ulcers heal ; which is but a trifling evil, because, when the cicatrice is tender, they may be separated with the finger ; when hard, with a knife."

Dr. Default. Can a trifling disorder require the use of a knife in the mouth ? Can such a coalition be without great trouble and uneasiness ? Can it be

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a trifling disorder which may destroy the discharge of the parotid and other salivary glands, &c.

Dr. Astruc, pag. 374. " After the ulcers of the mouth are cured there sometimes remains such a stricture on the muscles of the lower jaw, that it is almost immovable, or can be moved so very little that there is none or but a very small opening ; whence no solid meat can be got into the mouth, or, tho' it could be thrust in, cannot be chewed : neither can they utter the least word distinctly. A great misfortune indeed ! and still so much greater, because it cannot be cured ; for to what purpose should we amuse them with vain hopes, or, which is worse, add new plagues to those they already suffer by new and insignificant courses ? Since they cannot use solid food they must live on liquids, to be taken thro' the small opening left in the mouth ; but if there is none a tooth must be drawn, that they may suck it thro' a quill ; by which, tho' they cannot live elegantly, *saltem placide vitam traducant* : For the rest, let them bear an incurable disease with a brave and patient mind, for what cannot be cured must be endured." A fair and honest account, I must own, from an advocate for salivating.

Dr. Default. This miserable jaw-locked person (who is robbed of almost all the pleasures of life, debarred from all friendly entertainments, and all other publick meetings, a scandal to his friends, a mock to others, and a town-talk to all) may pass his time quietly ! This miserable jaw-locked person (who is affected with an incurable disease, by which he's obliged to live a private and solitary

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life, like the wild beasts) may pass his time quietly ! This miserable jaw-locked person (who is obliged to live upon liquids, which he sucks thro' a quill at the hole left after his tooth was drawn) may pass his time quietly ! This miserable jaw-locked person (whose grief will not be revived every day only, but every time he takes any sustenance, when he revolves in his Mind, taught by late and fatal experience, that this great evil was brought upon him by preferring salivation to our method) may pass his time quietly !

Dr. Default's answer to Dr. Astruc is wrote in a most lively and pathetick manner. But, above all, I'm so pleased with the original of the aforesaid paragraph, that I must give it in his own words, the loose translation I have made being far short of it.

*Accippe nunc salivatonis insidias, & criminis ab uno  
disce omnes.*

*Placidè vitam traducat miser ille capistratus,  
omni vitæ jucunditate orbatus, conviviarum exul,  
imò cujuscumque aliùs conventùs, suis opprobrium,  
aliis ludibrium, omnibus fabula ! Placidè vitam  
traducat immedicabili morbo detentus, quo cogitur  
privatam solitariamque vitam degere ferarum more !  
Placidè vitam traducat qui solis alimentis liquidis  
victitare cogitur, quæ per foramen quod dens datà  
operà evulsus suppeditat, ingeruntur ! Placidè vi-  
tam traducat cuius ægritudo non quolibet die modo,  
sed & quoties ingeritur cibus qualibet hora exaspe-  
ratur, dum animo revolvit serà penitentià ductus,  
tam gravi infortunio se mactari, quod sali-*

*vationem anteposureit methodo tantis calamitatibus immuni!*

Dr. Default. Notwithstanding Dr. Astruc takes this to be an incurable disease, yet I will shew a method not only of relieving but of curing it. Perhaps it will surprize this very learned author, that tho' mercury as used for salivating, is the sole cause of this disaster, yet when used after my method it cures it: so, what the fable sayeth of Achillis's spear, the miserable jaw-lock'd person will find true here.

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*Et qua cuspide vulnus  
Senserat, bac ipsa cuspide sensit open.*

Let the contracted muscles be anointed every day with about ʒi of unctio[n], and clap a plaister of diabotanum over it; and the following powder given morning and evening, Rx *mart. ppt. milleped. ana* ʒi drinking a large draught of veal or mutton broath after it; and let them be purged gently every fourth day. By this method I cured a very beautiful young lady, who soon after marriage was complimented with this disease by her husband; for which she was thrown into a plentiful salivation by a famous salivator, and was thereby jaw-locked, and the person who salivated her left her as incurable, as perhaps Dr. Astruc, Dr. Turner, &c. would have done.

Notwithstanding Dr. Astruc takes a jaw-locked person to be incurable, yet he orders the same medicine Dr. Default does, in a case of as great consequence, viz. a schirrous on the testicles, occasioned by improper treatment: His words are these

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pag. 196. Denique si testis totus skirrhodes remaneat, aut si notabilis & skirrhodæa durities testis vel epididymidis partem aliquam occupet, necessariò adhibendæ sunt inunctiones mercuriales, quæ sunt in morbis venereis contumacioribus tanquam *sacra anchora*: Hac enim methodo solà potest sanguis efficiater alterari, semen crassius, quod in teste hæret, atteri, ac demùm corrigi virus venereum, quod latet in sanguine, &c.

But if he had used the same medicine in the beginning, instead of his bleeding, ptifans, lotions, fomentations, cataplasms, plaisters, &c. the schirrus would never have appeared, but the swelling and hardness been perfectly resolved. Pray might not that gentleman, mentioned pag. 4, &c. been relieved by these frictions, had Mr. Green or I been then fully acquainted with their effects?

Dr. Desault. Though the misfortunes which attend a salivation are accurately and freely described by Dr. Astruc in several chapters, yet with his leave I must remark, that he has forgot one of the last consequence, viz. death! which so often happens in the course of a salivation, or soon afterwards. Nay, and its well known, that this misfortune don't happen only in the hands of quacks and boys, but also to the most expert and famous salivators. I call you to witness, ye salivators of the first rank, whose patients have frequently died. I call you to witness, ye citizens of Bordeaux, who certainly know that many of your rich neighbours have had this distemper, and, because they minded no expence, would go either to Paris or Montpellier, where they put them selves under the care of

the most noted salivators, yet never returned again. I appeal to you, ye citizens of Paris, who have lost your parents or friends after the same manner. Lastly, I call you to witness, ye doctors of all nations, who doubtless have seen many expire in the course of a salivation. But why should I not freely say what I think ? when I read Dr. Astruc's very learned treatise on the venereal disease, I suspected (and that suspicion is so deeply rooted in my mind, that I can never get over it) that he only took the part of salivation in joke ; but that he is in grave earnest, and really explodes it, by the elegant account he gives of the misfortunes which attend it : And it seems to me, his main view was only to shew how capable he was of defending either side of the question,

THEREFORE the painful, tedious, and dangerous practice of salivation ought to be laid aside in all cases, and our easy and more successful method made use of in its room.

“ Exulet igitur à nostra therapeutice *salivatio*, non tam medicatrix, quam vera carnifex. In ejus locum subrogetur methodus non minus efficax, quam periculi & doloris expers ; quam ipse, civibus meis spectantibus, cum successu, nec sine laude jam ab aliquot annis in usum adhibeo.” DESAULT.

Q. 2. Whether the method proposed has been known as long as the venereal disease, as Dr. Astruc asserts?

To which Dr. Default replies, that his method is very different from that which was used by the antients. 1. Because he always takes care that a

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flux of the belly shall precede the unction; which in their way succeeds it. 2. He anoints the patient twice a day, or every day for some time, and afterwards every other day as long as he thinks necessary; which they did only every third or fourth day. 3. He keeps the belly constantly open through the whole course of the cure by clysters or purges, which they never did: By which means a salivation is certainly prevented, and consequently all the forementioned grievous symptoms (though you use six times the quantity of the medicine) and the venereal poison are carried off below.

Dr. \* Turner. Though also a declared champion for salivating, as well as Dr. Astruc, frankly owns the dismal accidents which often attend or ensue that process; of which I shall make an abstract, to avoid his round-about way of telling his tale, &c.

Pag. 166. he says there are two supervenients, which sometimes perplex a mercurial salivation, viz. its too hasty rising, as it were all at once, by which the poor sufferer is in great danger of being choak'd, &c. and its over long continuance after the expected time of its declension, by which there must necessarily ensue a consumption.

Pag. 167. "The best way to prevent the former, is to begin with small doses, &c. But if by an unforeseen accident, as the uncommon proneness of the blood to be melted down, or broken by the particles of the mercury, &c. the fauces should all of a sudden inflame and tumify, by which the sick

\* Syphilis, 1724.

is brought into apparent danger ; you are immediately to make all the diversions you possibly can : 1. by sharp clysters ; 2. brisk catharticks, when they can be swallowed, (*but when they cannot —*) 3. bleeding under the tongue, and in the arm ; cupping and scarring the tops of the shoulders ; 4. large blisters on the back and behind the ears ; extending along the jugulars on each side of the neck ; 5. and by throwing gargles into the throat with a syringe, &c."

Behold ! what a pothe is here ? What pain, trouble, and danger is the sick brought into, not by the disease, nor by the ignorance or carelessness of the surgeon, but by unforeseen accidents which often attend this process, and cannot be discovered before hand by the most experienced salivators ; who then in their wits would run such a risque, not only of their patients lives, but also of their own reputations ? Who is so fond of being cured, as to suffer himself to be flea'd with so many blisters, cut and slashed in so many places, drenched with purges and clysters almost at the same time, or stand the chance of being choaked by forcing gargles into his throat with a syringe &c.

*Leviusne est ægrotare, quam, tali methodo sanari?*  
FERNEL.

Notwithstanding all that variety of remedies he mentions to save the sick from immediate death, yet, pag. 168. he fairly owns, " that the chief relief depends upon diverting the stream of lymph the contrary way, viz. downwards, by purges and clysters."

## A DISSERTATION on

Now as it is granted, both by Dr. Astruc and Dr. Turner, that their sheet anchor, their main stay, their only asylum in these dismal occurrences are glysters or purges; pray will any reasonable man deny that its more eligible to make use of the same remedies to prevent them? vid. pag. 25.

Pag. 159. "Another accident is sickness and vomiting, which if mild may be let alone; but if cardialgia attends, or racking and intolerable pains upon the mouth of the stomach, with incessant or perpetual vomiting, (*utrum horum!*) spasms of the members, continual sickness, without respite, fainting, with cold sweats upon the forehead and eyebrows, &c. it will behove you to bestir your self, *nam jactea est alea*, your patient is now in the utmost danger, (*undoubtedly! is it not a fine kettle of fish?*) therefore you are to turn the course of what you have given downwards, as before, especially if costive, (*or not costive, if you can*) by clysters, &c. but these symptoms are often too powerful for these or any other remedies, and frequently carry off the patient in a few hours; so that instead of a cure he meets with unexpected death." A fair confession, I must own, from another champion for salivating. A melancholy disappointment indeed! a recommendable method undoubtedly! What say ye to this Dr. John Astruc, Mr. P—n P—r, and all ye H—l S—s? is this the method whereby you seldom miss of a cure?

Pag. 163. He gives the following confused account of jaw-locking, described clearly and distinctly by Dr. Astruc, pag. 27. "At these times also

it frequently happens, that the jaws are so lock'd up that the sick is hard put to it to receive his sustenance, (*which God knows is a very small matter*) and the surgeon harder to inspect the ulcers ; (*utrum horum !*) for obviating which I have been obliged to use a bit of stick, covered with a soft rag, and thrust it in at the corner of the mouth, between the backward teeth, to keep them asunder, that the saliva might run out thereby, (*is it not a pity he did not also inform us how long he was obliged to stand with that stick in his hand, before it had all the desired effect ?*) and the other inconveniences be prevented ; (*is it not a notable, easy, and most likely way of preventing those dreadful accidents ?*) but if notwithstanding all your care, an adhesion happen between the cheeks and gums, occasioning a stricture, and hindering the patient in the free opening of his mouth, or chewing his food, (*who can doubt it will have that effect ?*) the same is carefully to be divided. He also owns in the same Page, that violent bleeding often happens by the bursting of the vessels in the mouth, which he used to restrain with a hot iron, &c." Is not this delightful work ? Is not the remedy worse than the disease ?

Pag. 182. " I must needs think a gentle salivation less hazardous for pregnant women, than a course of strong purging or vomiting." Pray how is he sure he could raise a gentle salivation ? Has he not seen women (*if he has not I have*) thrown into a plentiful salivation by one dose of calomel, when there was no design to salivate ? How is he sure Dr. Cardialgia would not attend her ? How does he know but by some unforeseen accident, as he men-

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tions pag. 49 it should rise too suddenly and choak her? or by continuing too long throw her into a consumption, or make her miscarry? &c. Pray is there no other way of relieving or curing pregnant women, but by strong vomiting and purging? Might not the process above-mentioned be put in practice both safely and successfully? undoubtedly.

Pray who can imagine that Dr. Turner is not injest, as well as Dr. Astruc, (vide pag. 45.) when he recommends *Salivation* so strongly, and at the same time gives such a dismal account of its effects? And also owns pag. 165. that he has known people cured by purging, when no salivation could be raised. “The gripes and looseness being repressed: If you find, upon renewing the mercurial medicine, it will still make towards the *Intestinal*, instead of the *maxillar* or *sublingual* glands, you may leave the said flux to spend it self together with the venereal venom it carries along with it, and which I have known entirely removed this way.”

What then can perswade them to expose their patients to the fatigue, pain, and a danger of a *salivation*, when they both own (and the experience of all mankind confirms it) that many patients have been radically cured, where nature could be allured by no art to throw off the mercury or the disease by *spitting*? And that their only asylum, their principal hope, when their patients are brought into the most imminent danger by that process, depends in clysters and purges? Is not this denying, and allowing the salutary effects of Dr. Desault’s method almost in the same breath? May we not justly infer (from

their catalogue of the terrible accidents which occur in salivating even in the most experienced hands, &c.) that spitting is always a force upon nature, whence these accidents; and that nature her self (by their own confession) has pointed out to us the most easy, natural, and commodious way of carrying off both the disease and the mercury, (and can we follow a greater master) viz. through the common and large canal of the intestines, which she has placed in the middle of our bodies, like an aqueduct or common shōre, to receive and carry off all the natural or præternatural impurities of our bodies, offending or endangering our constitutions? Has it not also been proved above by repeated experiments, that the functions of mastication, deglutition, digestion, &c. (always impaired, and sometimes destroyed by salivating) were preserved intire through our whole process? And that the cure is more certain than by their method?

Now, after all, Dr. Turner and his patrons may ask what I have done in this little work, except translating a French author? To which I answer, that I have communicated to the fraternity an easier, shorter, and more effectual method of curing all the stages of this distemper, than either of them have as yet done (and proved it to be surprisingly successful by my own experience) a method which many of them might never have heard of; a method so different from that so long established, that few of them would ever have tried, though they had heard of it: Nay, some of them, like the learned Dr. Astruc, &c. who had

*A DISSERTATION on, &c.*

read it before me, might have thought so little on't that instead of trying it, they would have set about exploding it. But now they see it succeeds here as well as in France, What but the greatest bigotry to antiquity can hinder them from putting it in practice?

Is there no merit then in reading antient or modern books and making them useful to others? Is there no merit in taking a good hint, (though from a foreigner) which others had over-looked, or thought good for nothing, and communicating it to the publick with parallel experiments made here? Is there no merit in endeavouring, by all reasonable means, to set aside the most expensive, troublesome, and most dangerous process in our most useful art?

*What say you to this Mr. S——l P——r,  
Mr. J——s D——y, and all you H——l S——s?*

*Turner's Syphilis.*

*F I N I S.*



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